the National Integration Council has been deliberating to find a solution to this vexed problem. The Council held two meetings during 1990—one in April in New Delhi and the other in September in Madras. At these meetings, resolutions were passed to the effect that the problems have to be solved in a peaceful manner, an amicable solution is to be found to the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue and that nothing should be done to aggravate the communal tension which already exists in the country.

With a view to promoting the twin concepts of communal harmony and national integration, a scheme is presently operative in the Ministry of Home Affairs under which financial assistance is granted to the Voluntary Organisations for holding functions and seminars for this purpose in various parts of the country.

Keeping in mind the need to foster communal harmony and prevent the occurance of communal riots in the country, guidelines were issued to States/UTs in April, 1990 detailing measures in this behalf. A set of suggestions have also been sent to States/UTs in August, 1990, about the curbing of inflammatory speeches, writings etc. which tend to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is also monitoring some aspects of the 15-Point Programme for Minorities Welfare. These include setting up of Special Courts, relief to riot victims, recruitment of minorities in police etc.

Special Courts have been set up in Delhi (3), Bhagalpur (6), and Meerut (2) for expeditious trial of communal riot cases. The Governments of Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have also been requested to set up similar special courts, where communal riots had occurred during October, 1989-December, 1989.

The Central Government is also considering the creation of a Riot Force to control communal riots in different parts of the country.

New Industrial Policy

622. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the new industrial policy; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, by when it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) A paper titled "Policy measures for the promotion of small scale and agro based industries and changes in procedures for industrial approvals" was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 31st May, 1990. The matter is under consideration.

Revamping of Punjab Administration

623. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to revamp the Punjab Administration and an action plan to deal with militants is also being finalised;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Punjab Administration would be revamped and the activities of the militants would be defused;

(c) the details of the suggestions received from the Punjab Government for introducing changes in the State Administration; and

(d) what action has been taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The situation in Punjab is constantly under review. As part of the overall strategy to find a

lasting solution to the problem, a number of steps have been suggested to the State Government to make the administration more effective and achieve a sense of peoples participation and secure their cooperation and support in the fight against terrorism. They have also been asked to take steps to firmly deal with terrorist activities. The changes that may be required in the administrative set-up of the State for the purpose will, however, have to be made by the State Government themselves. All possible assistence is being extended to the State Government as and when required.

Observing 'Decade of the Girl Child'

624. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Heads of Governments of SAARC countries have decided to observe the coming decade as the 'Decade of the Girl Child'; and

(b) if so, what action plan has been prepared by Government for implementing this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) In the recently concluded Summit at Male, the Heads of State or Government decided that in order to maintain focus on the problems of the Girl Child, the years 1991-2000 AD should be observed as the "SAARC DECADE OF THE GIRL CHILD" regarding which action plan is under formulation by the Government.

[illegible] on Communal situation

625. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some news papers have been indulging in communal propaganda, sometimes publishing blatant lies without verification which has sparked off further violence during communal riots in several places; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against such papers for spreading false information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The State Governments and U.Ts. are vested with adequate powers to launch prosecutions against News-papers, periodicals and inflammatory writings preaching communal hatred in the press. Moreover any published material which promotes communal dishormony or feeling of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different communities can also be prescribed. The Central Government has issued instructions, from time to time, to States and UTs for strict enforcement of the legal provisions.

Request by various parties of Punjab to the Central Government

626. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether leaders of various political parties in Punjab have urged the Central Government to take immediate steps to solve the State's continuing problem and ask the Pak Government to stop fuelling militancy in the State;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps contemplated by Government to tackle Punjab situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister held meetings on 7th and 8th December, 1990 in New Delhi with representatives of political parties from Punjab. The meetings were attended